

[illegible]

Wilderness Characteristics Inventory (Public)

FORM 2

Current Conditions: Presence or Absence of Wilderness Characteristics

Area Unique Identifier CDCA 1333-1 Acreage 13,347

(If the inventory area consists of subunits, list the acreage of each and evaluate separately).

In completing steps (1) – (5), use additional space as necessary.

(1) Is the area of sufficient size? (If the area meets one of the exceptions to the size criterion, check "Yes" and describe the exception in the space provided below),

Yes _____ No X

Note: If "No is checked, the area does not have wilderness characteristics; check "N/A" for the remaining questions below.

Description (describe the boundaries of the area—wilderness inventory roads, property lines, etc.):

This triangular-shaped area is bounded on the west by an industrial railroad and maintained dirt road; to the east by a paved road providing access to the Eagle Mountain Mine; and, to the south by Interstate 10. The unit contains Public Land which is divided by a narrow swath of Private Land. The unit also contains numerous Northern and Eastern (NECO) designated routes and primitive ways, which run in all directions throughout this unit. This unit does not have 5,000 contiguous, roadless acres.

(2) Does the area appear to be natural?

Yes _____ No _____ N/A X

Note: If "No is checked, the area does not have wilderness characteristics; check "N/A" for the remaining questions below.

Description (include land ownership, location, topography, vegetation, and summary of major human uses/activities):

(3) Does the area (or the remainder of the area if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturalness and the remaining is of sufficient size) have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

Yes _____ No _____ N/A X

Description (describe the area's outstanding opportunities for solitude):

(4) Does the area (or the remainder of the area if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturalness and the remaining is of sufficient size) have outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation?

Yes _____ No _____ N/A X

Note: If "No" is checked for both 3 and 4, the area does not have wilderness characteristics; check "N/A" for question 5.

Description (describe the area's outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation):

(5) Does the area have supplemental values (ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic or historical value)?

Yes _____ No _____ N/A X

Description:

(Add description here)

Summary of Analysis*

Area Unique Identifier: CDCA 1333-1

Summary

This area does not contain 5,000 contiguous, roadless acres of BLM Public Land and is not of sufficient size as the lands contain Private, and Public ownership as well as numerous Northern and Eastern (NECO) designated routes and primitive ways, which run in all directions throughout this unit. This unit does not meet the size requirements of wilderness characteristics.

Results of analysis:

1. Does the area meet any of the size requirements? ☐ Yes ☒ No
2. Does the area appear to be natural? ☐ Yes ☒ No
3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation?
☐ Yes ☒ No
4. Does the area have supplemental values? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Check one:

☐ The area, or a portion of the area, has wilderness characteristics and is identified as Land with Wilderness Characteristics (LWC)

☒ The area does not have wilderness characteristics.

Prepared by (team members):

John Johnson, ECFO - Environmental Protection Specialist, 6/10/2014

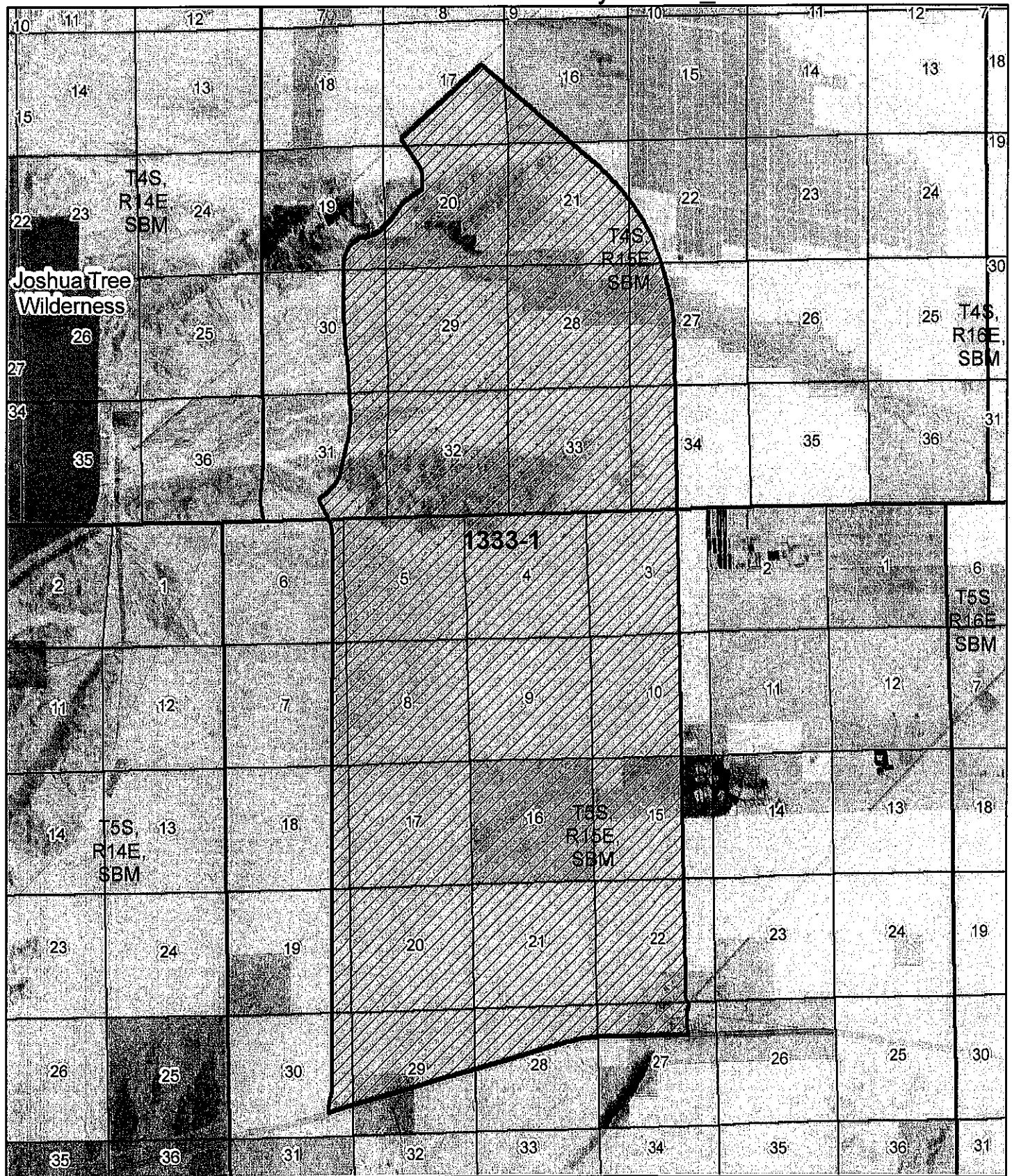
Reviewed by (District or Field Manager):

Name:  Title: Field Manager

Date: 1/15/16

*This form documents information that constitutes and inventory finding on wilderness characteristics. It does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision subject to administrative remedies under either 43 CFR or 1610.5-3

Wilderness Character Inventory CDCA 1333-1



Legend

Wilderness Inventory Units

Federal Wilderness Surface Management

Managing Agency

- Bureau of Land Management
- US Forest Service
- National Park Service
- US Fish and Wildlife Service

Government Lands

AGENCY

- Bureau of Land Management
- Forest Service
- National Park Service
- Fish and Wildlife Service
- Bureau of Reclamation
- Bureau of Indian Affairs
- Department of Defense
- Other Federal
- State
- Local Government



0 0.75 1.5 Miles

1:68,939

US Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
 Palm Springs-South Coast Field Office
 Palm Springs, California
 (760) 853-7100
www.ca.blm.gov/palmsprings
 Date Prepared: 1/21/2016
 Project: CDCA_1333-1

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Comments received agreed with the findings.

AREA 332A

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This small triangular-shaped area is bordered on the southeast by Highway 177; on the west, by the Kaiser Eagle Mountain Mine Road; and, on the northeast, by a maintained road connecting the Desert Center-Rice Road and the Kaiser Road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The boundaries include approximately six sections of non-public land which are uniformly distributed throughout the site and account for approximately 40 percent of the land area.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

This area is a relatively flat bajada with little topographic relief and some scattered Ironwood Trees and creosote. Some private land ownership is included.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Permanent improvements, human habitation, vehicle ways, and some development reduce the natural appearance.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

Opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation are severely restricted due to the relatively small size of this roadless area as well as the absence of terrain variety to screen visitors from one another.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

The comments received were opposed to wilderness designation for this area.

AREA 333

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This triangular-shaped area is bounded on the west by an industrial railroad and maintained dirt road; to the east by a paved road providing access to the Eagle Mountain Mine; and, to the south by Interstate 10.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The boundaries include approximately two scattered sections of non-public land, which account for approximately 10 percent of the land area.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

This area is a flat, broad bajada of the Eagle Mountains, with very little topographic relief. The area is sparsely vegetated, primarily with Creosote Bush Scrub. The narrow, elongated southwest portion contains extensive non-public lands as does the southeastern corner, which includes a portion of the community of Desert Center.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The Eagle Mountain dump, located 4.2 miles north of I-10 along R2, and the northern one-third of the area is heavily impacted by man. Except for these portions, and those in non-public land ownership, the area consists of undeveloped public land, without permanent improvements or human habitation.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

Because of the relatively small size, flat terrain, and sparse vegetation, the ability to screen visitors from one another is greatly restricted. Outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation are lacking.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

One comment indicated that the lower two-thirds of the parcel should be given wilderness designation. The remainder expressed viewpoints that the area be deleted from further wilderness consideration.

AREA 334

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The northern border is formed by a maintained dirt road which joins Joshua Tree National Monument to Kaiser mining operations on the eastern border. The western boundary of this area is contiguous with a designated wilderness area in Joshua Tree National Monument. The eastern boundary includes maintained dirt roads, a portion of an industrial railroad, and a transmission line corridor right-of-way and access road. The southern boundary includes Interstate 10 and portions of the Hayfield Pumping Station road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

This site includes approximately 12 sections of non-public land, scattered throughout the area and accounting for approximately 10 percent of the total land area.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The extremely diverse Eagle Mountains cover the majority of this area. Large, exfoliated boulders of quartz monzonite make up the southern limits of these mountains. These "jumbles" of rocks contrast highly with the dark, jagged rocks found more in the interior of this site. Large, interior washes and valleys, such as Big Wash, add to the complexity of the area. In some portions of the washes, vegetation is extremely thick and includes varieties of yucca, cactus, smoketrees and various annuals.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The vast majority of this area generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work being substantially unnoticeable. Within the interior, and in the Big Wash area, only a few past mining activities are visible and most do not detract from the primeval character and influence of the land. The patented Rainbow End Mine and a patent mining claim located in Section 4 (T. 4 S., R. 14 E.) has been excluded. A large portion of the area in the northeast section was excluded from further wilderness consideration due to the extensive open-pit mine operation associated with the Eagle Mountain Iron Ore Mine. The boundary of the potential Wilderness Study Area was adjusted accordingly. The extreme southern portion was also removed from consideration due to extensive private land ownership, flood control dikes, and the permanent improvements and human habitation associated with the Hayfield Pumping Station.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

Opportunities for solitude are outstanding within this roadless area due to the extreme ruggedness and diversity of the topography. Small canyons and boulder piles tend to create an intimate feeling of solitude, while some of the enclosed interior valleys and washes, combined with the ability of the vegetation to screen visitors from one another, allow a feeling of wide-open spaciousness. Associated with these varying types of solitude, the diversity of terrain and relationship to Joshua Tree National Monument wilderness, offers outstanding opportunities for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

The majority of public comments support further consideration of this area as an extension of Joshua Tree National Monument. Several comments supported the findings